



Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority

Charitable Giving Policy

The Steamship Authority is a public instrumentality of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts charged with the responsibility of providing adequate transportation of persons and necessities of life for the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. The SSA's Enabling Act provides that all monies received by the SSA are deemed to be trust funds to be held and applied solely for the SSA's statutory mission.

Although there is no specific authorization in the SSA's Enabling Act for the SSA to make any charitable contributions, the SSA has long taken the position that charitable contributions are incidental to the performance of the SSA's duties when the contributions are reasonable in amount and the SSA's operations receive a practical benefit for them, such as advertising that would help increase the SSA's market share of ferry traffic to and from the islands. These guidelines are meant to assist organizations in understanding the SSA's charitable giving policy. The SSA does not consider unsolicited requests for financial support. However, we do support Massachusetts charitable organizations by donating in-kind passenger tickets or Steamship Authority gift cards to either island to be used as raffle items to raise funds for those charities.

Eligibility and Guidelines

Eligible charitable organizations may request ferry passenger tickets under the Ticket Guidelines below. Such requests are eligible to be fulfilled once per calendar year with either a gift of a) four traditional ferry round-trip passenger tickets to Martha's Vineyard, b) two traditional ferry round-trip passenger tickets to Nantucket, c) one high-speed ferry voucher good for two round-trips to Nantucket (which may be subject to blackout travel dates such as peak holiday weekends), or d) one Steamship Authority gift card valued at not more than \$50.00 to be used for fundraising purposes. In exchange, the organization must provide promotional exposure for the SSA, to be agreed upon by both parties in advance.

Ticket Guidelines

1. Ferry passenger tickets must be used for the fundraising efforts of qualified Massachusetts charitable organizations.
2. Requests must be received a minimum of 30 days and no more than six months prior to the event date.
3. Only one request per charitable organization will be accepted within a 12-month period.
4. Donations must be made directly to the charitable organization and not to an alternative delivery address.

5. The organization must provide promotional exposure for the SSA to be agreed upon by both parties in advance.
6. The charitable organization must fill out a Charitable Donation Request Form and submit it to the Communications and Marketing Department. Department staff will verify the information contained therein before approving the form and issuing the donation.

Advertising Donation Guidelines

1. Each year, the Authority shall designate certain portions of its available advertising space as part of the annual advertising donation lottery.
2. The Authority shall solicit qualified Massachusetts charitable organizations with a principal place of business in Barnstable, Dukes County, Falmouth, New Bedford, and/or Nantucket, to enter the advertising donation lottery each year. A single organization may enter the lottery for space on the Woods Hole-Martha's Vineyard route and/or the Hyannis-Nantucket route.
3. The Authority's Communications and Marketing Department shall hold a lottery for the available space. The available spaces will be awarded based on the "rack rate" for the advertising space as set by the Authority, with spaces being awarded from higher value to lower value based on location and time of year. If fewer charitable organizations enter the lottery than the number of available spaces, staff may choose to award multiple spaces to a single organization pursuant to the same lottery procedures.
4. Each winning organization shall receive the space for the designated period of time established in each year's process. No creative swaps of printed materials will be allowed during the donation period.
5. Winning charitable organizations must provide promotional exposure for the SSA on any printed material displayed in the advertising space, or as otherwise agreed upon by both parties in advance.
6. The Authority may suspend the donation program at any time at its discretion. Winning advertising space shall not be construed as a contractual obligation between the Authority and any charitable organization.
7. All advertising content must comply with the Authority's Advertising Guidelines.

Approved February 18, 2025